



National School Breakfast Program Fact Sheet

What is the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public, nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It began as a pilot project in 1966, and was made permanent in 1975. It is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service. At the State level, the program is usually administered by State education agencies.

School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the breakfast program receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve.

In return, they must serve breakfasts that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price breakfasts to eligible children.

Nutritional Requirements

The decisions about what specific food to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

School breakfasts must meet the applicable recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend:

- No more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat (less than 10% from saturated fat.)
- Breakfasts must provide one-fourth of the Recommended Dietary Allowance for protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin C and calories.



Qualifications

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the School Breakfast Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals.

Reimbursements



The current (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) basic cash reimbursement rates for non-severe need are:

Free breakfasts \$1.48

Reduced price breakfasts \$1.18

Paid breakfasts \$0.26

Schools may qualify for higher "severe need" reimbursements if 40% of their lunches are served free or at a reduced price in the second preceding year. Severe need payments are up to 28 cents higher than the normal reimbursements for free and reduced-price breakfasts.

For more information visit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Breakfast/Default.htm>